



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/572,727	03/23/2007	Geoffrey Furneaux	HO-P03292US0	6885
26271 7590 06/24/2008 FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, LLP 1301 MCKINNEY SUITE 5100 HOUSTON, TX 77010-3095				
EXAMINER				
PATTERSON, MARC A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/24/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/572,727

Applicant(s)

FURNEAUX, GEOFFREY

Examiner

MARC A. PATTERSON

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF 298)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/7/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tankersley (U.S. Patent No. 6,957,915 B2).

With regard to Claim 1, Tankersley discloses a sheet material (film; column 5, lines 37 – 40) that is compostable (biodegradable; column 5, line 30); the film has a total of three layers (column 6, lines 8 - 11) and the inside layer has a lower seal initiation temperature than the outer and exterior layers (column 2, lines 66 – 67); the film therefore has a compostable substrate layer and a first compostable and sealable layer on a first side of the substrate layer and a second compostable and sealable layer overlying the first sealable layer, wherein the second sealable layer has a lower hear sealing initiation temperature than the first heat sealable layer.

With regard to Claim 3, the substrate comprises a layer of printing substrate (column 3, lines 11 – 15).

With regard to Claim 6, Tankersley discloses a package (bag; column 4, line 33).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7 – 9 and 11 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tankersley (U.S. Patent No. 6,957,915 B2).

Tankersley discloses a sheet material comprising first and second seal layers as discussed above. With regard to Claims 7 – 8, Tankersley fails to disclose first and second regions of sealing between sheets of the material, the first region having a relatively high sealing strength and the second region having a relatively low sealing strength. However, because Tankersley discloses an inside layer having a lower seal initiation temperature than the outer and exterior layers, Tankersley discloses the selection of seal temperature depending on the desired use of the end product. It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, through routine optimization, to have selected a desired sealing temperature, therefore sealing strength of the layers, depending on the desired use of the end product as taught by Tankersley.

With regard to Claim 9, the package is a bag, therefore capsule, as discussed above, containing a beverage making ingredient (carrot; column 4, lines 42).

With regard to Claims 11 – 12, discloses a method comprising bonding two of the sheets in face – to – face relation (column 5, lines 3 – 12).

Art Unit: 1794

5. Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tankersley (U.S. Patent No. 6,957,915 B2) in view of Jerdee et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,333,087 B1).

Tankersley discloses a package comprising a substrate layer as disclosed above. The layer comprises an ethylene copolymer (column 5, lines 24 – 25). With regard to Claim 2, Tankersley fails to disclose a layer that is a barrier layer.

Jerdee et al teach a package (column 1, line 21) comprising heat sealable ethylene vinyl alcohol for the purpose of providing a package having enhanced oxygen barrier properties (column 1, lines 36 – 42). One of ordinary skill in the art would therefore have recognized the advantage of providing for the heat sealable ethylene vinyl alcohol of Jerdee et al in Tankersley, which comprises a package comprising a heat seal layer, depending on the desired barrier properties of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a layer comprising ethylene vinyl alcohol, therefore a barrier layer, in Tankersley in order to obtain a package having enhanced oxygen barrier properties as taught by Jerdee et al.

With regard to Claim 10, Jerdee et al teaches a barrier layer, therefore a filter sheet.

6. Claims 4 – 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tankersley (U.S. Patent No. 6,957,915 B2) in view of Oya et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,153,276).

Tankersley discloses a package comprising a heat seal layer as disclosed above. With regard to Claim 4, Tankersley fails to disclose a layer that is a polymer of lactic acid.

Oya et al teach a package comprising heat sealable lactic acid polymer for the purpose of providing a package having good biodegradability (column 2, lines 39 – 53). One of ordinary skill in the art would therefore have recognized the advantage of providing for the lactic acid of Oya et al in Tankersley, which comprises a package comprising a heat seal layer, depending on the desired biodegradability of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a layer comprising a polymer of lactic acid, therefore material 90% composted in six months in Tankersley in order to obtain a package having good biodegradability as taught by Oya et al.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1794

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Marc A Patterson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794